

# Student Resource Sheet

**What:** Good writers use strong, specific verbs to describe the actions of a character (a person, animal, or thing).

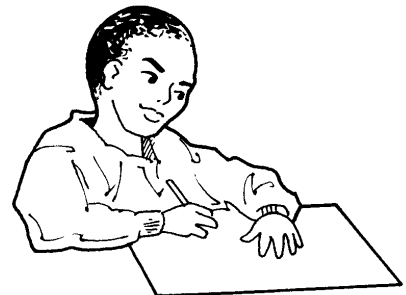
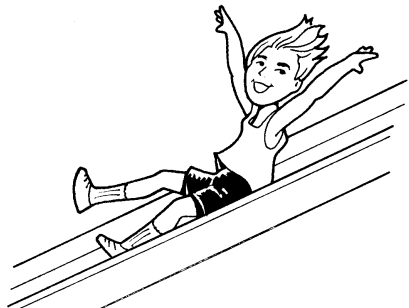
**Why:** Strong verbs paint a more vivid picture for the reader. They describe exactly what the character is doing. Sometimes strong verbs even give clues to a character's motivation or emotions.

**When:** Writers use strong verbs all the time. Anytime you write a sentence, try to use a verb that is as specific and as strong as possible.

**How:** Think about the subject (who or what) your sentence is about. Decide what the subject of your sentence is doing. Think about why the subject is doing this action. Then choose the most specific verb to describe the action being done by your subject. You may need to consult a thesaurus or dictionary to help you select the best verb. Some verbs describe an action that is happening in the present, or now. Other verbs describe an action that has already happened, which means it has taken place in the past.

Here are some examples of verbs.

|       |        |          |            |             |
|-------|--------|----------|------------|-------------|
| run   | sing   | searched | rang       | helping     |
| sit   | speak  | began    | blew       | researching |
| swim  | shine  | broke    | coloring   | computing   |
| sink  | try    | fought   | painting   | calculating |
| drive | sew    | gave     | organizing | feeding     |
| catch | lost   | took     | thinking   | fixing      |
| throw | fell   | talked   | moving     | winning     |
| eat   | looked | tore     | sliding    |             |



**Note:** Remember, verbs show action. They must tell something the subject of your sentence can do.



**Standards and Benchmarks: 3E**

# Student Practice Sheet One

Brainstorm a list of synonyms for the word *went* as it is used in the following sentence.

The person **went** down the road.

Example: *skipped*

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Select five of your synonyms from above. For each word, imagine what kind of character would move that way. Why might the character be moving in that way? Review the example shown below. Then list your five synonyms under the word *skipped*. For each synonym, include a brief explanation of who would move that way and why.

| Synonym                    | Who would move that way? | Why?  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Example:<br><i>skipped</i> | <i>a little girl</i>     | <i>She's excited because it's her birthday.</i> |
|                            |                          |   |
|                            |                          |   |
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**Standards and Benchmarks: 3E**

# Student Practice Sheet Two

Read the following pairs of sentences. Place an **X** beside the sentence that is more exciting or interesting to read.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The prisoner walked back and forth in his cell.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The prisoner paced back and forth in his cell.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The basketball team bolted onto the court, ready to play the championship game.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The basketball team walked onto the court, ready to play the championship game.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The happy dog raced across the grass.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The happy dog ran across the grass.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The man gobbled his food as if he hadn't eaten in days.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The man ate his food as if he hadn't eaten in days.

Read the following sentences. Replace each verb in parentheses with a stronger, more specific action verb.

5. The children \_\_\_\_\_ into the swimming pool. (went)
6. The monkey \_\_\_\_\_ on the tree branch and \_\_\_\_\_ its banana. (sat; ate)
7. The tired man \_\_\_\_\_ to bed. (went)
8. Anthony \_\_\_\_\_ from the slide and \_\_\_\_\_ in the mud puddle at the bottom. (fell; landed)
9. The pitcher \_\_\_\_\_ the ball toward the batter. (threw)
10. The pilot \_\_\_\_\_ the airplane through the thick fog and landed it safely. (flew)
11. The cheetah \_\_\_\_\_ for food. (looked)
12. Jake's car \_\_\_\_\_ around the corner, \_\_\_\_\_ on the wet pavement, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the curb. (went; slipped; landed)
13. The chef \_\_\_\_\_ a five-course dinner, fit for a king. (made)
14. The lazy dog \_\_\_\_\_ in the warm sunshine. (slept)
15. Suddenly, the door \_\_\_\_\_ open. (came)